(b) if so, when it was closed;

(c) the reasons for its closure; and

(d) the future plan under contemplation for proper monitoring and supervision of works of NHs in the landlocked areas of the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1992.

(c) In view of the requirement of officers at headquarters, the work of Engineer Liaison Office at Imphal was transferred to Regional Office, Guwahati.

(d) The works on National Highways entrusted to the States are implemented by State PWDs as agencies of the Central Government, who also undertake the supervison and quality control of the works. The works are monitored by the Regional Officer at Guwahati through inspections. Periodical reviews and inspections are also carried out by officers at the headquarters of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**Upgradation of Phulnakhara-Puri Road**

3488. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to upgrade 100 Km. road from Phulnakhara to Puri *via* Konark in Orissa has been pending since large;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether the above proposal would be implemented during 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) to (d) The proposal for upgradation of Phulnakhara-Puri road had been received in the Ministry only in January, 2001. The proposal forwarded by the State Government of Orissa would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.